

October 16, 2002

Public Notice for 401 Certification
Miller Farms - Gravel Extraction Operations

Humboldt County

On October 7, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Miller Farms requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for the gravel extraction operations along the Mad River in Humboldt County, California. The application was deemed complete on October 11, 2002. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Mad River in the Mad River Hydrologic Unit No. 109.00.

The proposed project is located in the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ and the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, HB&M. The project site was previously named the Johnson - Spini Bar but, after a recent change in ownership, it is now known as the Miller Bar.

The project proposes to remove 6,500 cubic yards of gravel and fines from the Mad River at Miller Bar. The project will cause disturbance to approximately 2.6 acres. Extraction methods will include bar skimming using a front-end loader or scraper and the use of dump trucks for removal of gravel from the extraction site. Extraction will be complete 3-5 days from start of project.

Compensatory mitigation for this project will not be required. Noncompensatory mitigation measures include implementing Best Management Practices.

The County of Humboldt, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, issued a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and Program Environmental Impact Report for Gravel Removal dated May 31, 1994.

The Miller Gravel Extraction Project is scheduled to begin upon issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Dayna Lieberman at (707) 576-6712, or at liebd@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.